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TURKEY.

Report from Constantinople.

[Report No. 248.]

*Sanitary condition of Constantinople.*CONSTANTINOPLE, *June 21, 1900.*

SIR: In Constantinople general health is rather good. Cases of influenza, as well as of all the zymotic diseases, continue to exist, but of light character. The proof of this statement is given by the number of deaths registered during the last two weeks. From the 4th to the 18th instant 378 deaths have been registered. Of these, 2 are from diphtheria, 2 from measles, 5 from typhoid fever, and 24 from acute inflammation of the respiratory system.

Improvement of the sanitary condition of Constantinople.

In consequence of the sanitary condition of the provinces of the Turkish Empire, where bubonic plague has made its appearance, the local authorities here are taking steps for cleaning the town. It is so asserted at the Khans, large buildings in which bachelors are living, which are inspected. The streets will be kept in a better condition and cleaner, but all this will depend on the financial condition of the town. In case that bubonic plague makes its appearance in Constantinople, a hospital is ready at Scutary, on the Asiatic coast of the Bosphorus, to receive and keep isolated the first case or cases.

If the number of said cases is too numerous, then a second hospital will be ready at Bebec, on the European coast of the Bosphorus, and if it is necessary a third one will be ready in Stamboul. Said authorities have already a stock of 700 doses of antipest serum and they will try to increase said stock. The French sanitary representative communicated at the last sitting of the superior sanitary commission that the French embassy has got from the Institut Pasteur in Paris 100 doses of said antipest serum, and if each sanitary representative applies through the embassy or legation which he represents to the above-mentioned Institut Pasteur the latter will supply at least 100 doses of said prophylactic that will make at least 1,300 doses.

Sanitary condition of the Turkish provinces—Case of suspected plague at Trebizond.

The sanitary news from the provinces is that plague cases continue to be registered in Smyrna. Up to the 20th instant 7 cases have been registered in said city. These cases have been confirmed by the microscope, through which the bacilli pestis have been seen.

The 6th instant the sanitary physician at Trebizond wired that, according to a report of an army physician residing at Hopa, a pilgrim, aged 70, and who had just come back home from the pilgrimage to Mecca, died with symptoms of plague. The following day the same sanitary physician wired from Hopa that said death is not attributable to plague, no symptoms of which having been found in the post-mortem examination.

The 11th instant another telegram from Trebizond has reached the sanitary board from the same sanitary physician, Dr. Spatheros. He announces a suspected plague case in a little girl, age 5 years. The symptoms presented by said girl are prostration, red face, pulse weak, 140 per minute, a painful growth in the right groin. The 12th the

girl's condition seemed to be better; the temperature was 39.4°C . The 13th said temperature rose to 40.5°C .; the pulse was 150. She was much more depressed. In the growth of the right groin, which was always painful, could be easily distinguished the enlarged ganglia of the groin and one in the regio cruralis, beginning already to suppurate.

It is not necessary to say that the little patient has been since the first moment isolated and a bacteriologist has been directed there to examine and see if he can find the bacillus pestis. The 19th instant while the superior sanitary commission was holding its ordinary meeting a telegram reached the sanitary board stating that the girl's condition is nearly well; that her temperature was 37.3°C . and that no bacilli pestis have yet been found. Cultures are made and the result will be reported.

Plague in Smyrna.

In my last report, dated the 6th instant, I announced that 2 plague cases had occurred in Smyrna. Since then 5 more cases have been registered. The first 2 patients are Isrealites, the 2 following Mohammedans, the fifth a Greek, and the 2 last Armenians. Their homes are in different quarters of the town. Said plague cases have been examined bacteriologically, and in all of them the bacilli pestis have been found. None of them has proved fatal. His majesty, the Sultan, has issued an iradé communicated to the superior sanitary commission, according to which a medical mission is composed of professors of the Ecole de Medicine and of the members of the sanitary board. The latter has appointed Dr. Lutfi Bey to said mission, to which Dr. Mizzi, the sanitary physician of Smyrna, is added.

The news received from Smyrna gives an appalling description of the misery of said city. The governor-general of the province of Aiden, the chief town of which is Smyrna, states that during the month of May, 1899, 200 steamships entered the harbor of the latter town; during the same month this year said number is only 78. The railway transactions dropped to 50 per cent of what they were before the quarantine and sanitary cordon.

The sanitary news from the other provinces states that since the first appearance of plague in Djiddah—that is, April 26—up to the 16th instant, 76 plague deaths have been registered in said city. In Yambo since April 10, the date of the first appearance of plague, up to the 13th instant, said number of plague deaths is 67.

From Benghazi in Tripoli of Africa it is announced the 17th instant by wire that an epidemic of dengue fever of mild character exists there. Sanitary reports from other provinces state that in Priveza the number of deaths during the month of last February was 11, of which 5 were from phthisis and 2 from diphtheria. From Erzeroum it is stated that scarlet fever, as well as typhoid fever, exist there. Both are of mild character.

In the island of Cos the country of Hippocrates and Appelles small-pox is raging, and up to April 1, 235 deaths from said disease have occurred. Between said island and Alexandria in Egypt there is a continuous going and coming of small sailing boats, which may spread plague already existing in the latter place. Steps have been taken to prevent the direct landing from Egypt without passing first from a lazaretto, Beirut Clazomenes or Astampalia. Therefore sanitary officials have been appointed there for said purpose. Dr. Tashdjian, from Haneguïn, gives some details on the plague which

broke out at Djivanro. The villages where said disease appeared are Nilavoura, Zalonab, and other little villages belonging to the two provinces of Kermanshah and Lina.

The villages belonging to the latter province are Devlet ava, Safiavé, Nafkhoshgan, Dedridje, Ali gave Baushele, Vurmava, Bavahairon and Diar. In spite of the orders given by the governor of Kermanshah to the inhabitants as well as to the Persian physicians in order not to show any patient nor give any details of the epidemic to Dr. Tashdjian he has been able, thanks to his skill and to the gratitude of a Persian kurd, chief of one of tribes affected, whose chief has been treated gratuitously by him, to see a few patients, the symptoms of which he gives. These symptoms are uneasiness, headache, strong chill, the sensation of burning in the stomach and throat, thirst, diarrhea, dullness of the intelligence, comotose state, dilatation of the pupils, the eyes injected, anxiety, the mouth open, which may be attributed to the necessity of breathing or to paralysis of the facial nerves.

In the middle of the tongue there is a bluish line, petecchiæ on both sides of the body and buboes. There was no peculiar sign in the abdomen. High temperature, pulse 140. In the beginning of the illness the patients presented hematuria, but later on they had dysuria. Dr. Tashdjian thinks that said outbreak of plague at Djivanro is due to the exhumation of a corpse for transportation according to religious customs to Kerbella or Nedjef in Mesopotamia.

A plague case at Camaran.

I have before me the sanitary report of Dr. Xanthopulides, the sanitary inspector of the lazaretto of Camaran, by which he communicates the details of the plague case which occurred on board the sambuc or sailing vessel *Hashini*. Said vessel is sailing between Loheia, in the Red Sea, and Aden. At its last voyage to Aden they loaded the vessel at a place near the docks, near the place where the first plague case broke out in Aden. They stayed there twenty-five days, and on the 24th of last March they sailed for the Red Sea. There was on board a crew of 33 men and 13 passengers, among whom were 5 women and 3 children. The cargo was composed of petroleum, candles, spices, and carpets. After two days of voyage, the 26th she arrived at Camaran. In her bill of health it was said 43 persons had been medically examined before vessel's departure; men all found well.

At her arrival at Camaran the captain declared that all on board were all right except a sailor who had a little wound in his foot. At the medical examination, which was very carefully made, it was found by Dr. Poumpouras and Dr. Marassoglu that said sailor had a bubo in the triangle of the scarpa of the left thigh which was very painful. In the above-mentioned sailor's left foot there was a pustule on the metatarsus. He was in a state of prostration and had high fever. Immediately he was isolated and his wearing apparel incinerated. By the microscopical examination the diagnosis of bubonic plague has been confirmed. The rest of the men, crew, and passengers have been separated and isolated, too.

By the inquest it has been found that above-mentioned sailor during the medical visit at Aden kept himself hidden and as a consequence he has not been examined by the Aden sanitary physician.

From Bassorah it is announced, under date of April 19, that as a con-

sequence of the floods at Zubeir on the northwest of said town, malarial fevers are prevailing in an epidemic form.

Respectfully,

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,
United States Sanitary Commissioner.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

FOREIGN STATISTICAL REPORTS.

AUSTRALIA—*Victoria—Brisbane.*—Month of April, 1900. Estimated population, 110,951. Total number of deaths, 72, including diphtheria, 4, and 2 from enteric fever.

BRITISH GUIANA—*Demerara—Georgetown.*—Month of May, 1900. Estimated population, 36,567. Total number of deaths, 195. No deaths from contagious diseases.

CANADA—*Hamilton.*—Month of June, 1900. Census population, 1900, 53,000. Total number of deaths, 51, including diphtheria, 1; measles, 1, and 5 from phthisis pulmonalis.

Province of Ontario.—Reports to the provincial board of health, for the month of May, 1900, from 720 municipalities, having an aggregate estimated population of 2,237,800, show a total of 2,162 deaths, including diphtheria, 27; enteric fever, 15; measles, 13; whooping cough, 8, and 239 from phthisis pulmonalis.

DUTCH GUIANA—*Paramaribo.*—Month of May, 1900. Estimated population, 31,279. Total number of deaths, 75. No contagious diseases.

FRANCE—*St. Etienne.*—Two weeks ended June 15, 1900. Estimated population, 145,000. Total number of deaths, 103, including diphtheria 1; scarlet fever, 1; measles, 4, and 1 from whooping cough.

GERMANY—*Magdeburg.*—Month of April, 1900. Estimated population, 230,524. Total number of deaths, 382, including diphtheria, 13; scarlet fever, 3; whooping cough, 4, and 29 from tuberculosis.

Weimar.—Month of May, 1900. Estimated population, 29,633. Total number of deaths, 35. No contagious diseases reported.

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales.*—The deaths registered in 33 great towns in England and Wales during the week ended June 16, 1900, correspond to an annual rate of 18.0 a thousand of the aggregate population, which is estimated at 11,610,296. The highest rate was recorded in Manchester, viz, 25.2, and the lowest in Cardiff, viz, 9.4.

London.—One thousand five hundred and thirty-three deaths were registered during the week, including measles 64; scarlet fever, 5; diphtheria, 28; whooping cough, 49; enteric fever, 8, and diarrhea and dysentery, 15. The deaths from all causes correspond to an annual rate of 17.4 a thousand. In Greater London 2,048 deaths were registered, corresponding to an annual rate of 16.1 a thousand of the population. In the "outer ring" the deaths included 10 from diphtheria, 30 from measles, 2 from scarlet fever, and 18 from whooping cough.

Ireland.—The average annual death rate represented by the deaths